

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A communications method, comprising the steps of:  
2 providing a service subscriber an opportunity to separately enable and  
3 disable forwarding of fax and voice telephone calls directed to a first telephone  
4 number corresponding to the service subscriber;  
5 detecting a first telephone call to a the first telephone number  
6 corresponding to a the service subscriber;  
7 answering the first telephone call;  
8 determining if the ~~answered~~ first telephone call is a fax or voice  
9 telephone call;  
10 and  
11 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call, and  
12 fax forwarding has been enabled by said subscriber, performing, ~~in parallel,~~ i) a fax  
13 delivery by E-mail operation and ii) a fax delivery by telephone operation when a  
14 customer record corresponding to said subscriber includes information indicating that  
15 a received fax directed to said subscriber is to be forwarded by both telephone and E-  
16 mail thereby resulting in delivery of a facsimile received from said first telephone call  
17 by both an E-mail message and by a telephone call thereby providing delivery of the  
18 facsimile to multiple devices.

1 Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein performing a fax  
2 delivery by E-mail operation includes the steps of:  
3 receiving a facsimile message transmitted via the first telephone call;  
4 storing the received facsimile message as an electronic file; and  
5 E-mailing the electronic file to a call forwarding service subscriber.

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein determining if the first telephone call is a fax or voice  
3 telephone call includes: monitoring the answered call for a tone indicative of a fax  
4 communication;

5                    wherein if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone  
6 call, the method further comprises forwarding the first telephone call using a second  
7 telephone number; and

8                    wherein performing a fax delivery by phone operation includes using a  
9 third telephone number, the third telephone number being different from said second  
10 telephone number.

1        Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2                    retrieving from stored call forwarding service subscriber information  
3 at least one of a stored voice call forwarding telephone number and a stored fax  
4 forwarding telephone number, the stored voice call forwarding telephone number  
5 being used as said second telephone number, the stored fax forwarding telephone  
6 number being used as said third telephone number.

1        Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said step of forwarding the first  
2 telephone call using a second telephone number includes:

3                    placing a telephone call to said second telephone number; and  
4                    bridging the first telephone call and the telephone call to the second  
5 telephone number.

1        Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5,

2                    wherein detecting a first telephone call includes setting a terminating  
3 attempt trigger at a telephone switch on a telephone line corresponding to the first  
4 telephone number; and

5                    wherein placing a telephone call to said second telephone number and  
6 bridging the first telephone call and the telephone call to the second telephone  
7 number are performed by a peripheral device coupled to said telephone switch.

1        Claim 7 (original): The communications method of claim 4, further comprising:

2                   retrieving from stored call forwarding service subscriber information  
3           at least one of a stored voice call forwarding telephone number and a stored fax  
4           forwarding telephone number, the stored voice call forwarding telephone number  
5           being used as said second telephone number when retrieved, the stored fax  
6           forwarding telephone number being used as said third telephone number when  
7           retrieved; and

8                   retrieving from said stored call forwarding service subscriber  
9           information an E-mail address to be used when forwarding a fax by E-mail.

1       Claim 8 (previously presented): A communications method for use in a telephone  
2       network including a telephone switch, service control point, and telephone switch  
3       peripheral device, comprising the steps of:

4                   setting a terminating attempt trigger at a telephone switch on a  
5       telephone line corresponding to a first telephone number;  
6                   in response to activation of said terminating attempt trigger by a first  
7       telephone call, operating the telephone switch to contact a service control point for  
8       call processing instructions;  
9                   operating said service control point to instruct the telephone switch to  
10      connect the first telephone call to the telephone switch peripheral device;  
11                  operating the telephone switch peripheral device to answer the first  
12      telephone call and to then determine if the first telephone call is a fax or voice  
13      telephone call;

14                  if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,  
15                   generating a file including a fax communicated by said  
16           first telephone call;  
17                   delivering said file including a fax via E-mail;  
18                   operating the telephone switch peripheral device to  
19           retrieve a fax telephone call forwarding telephone number from  
20           a set of stored subscriber information; and

21 forwarding the first telephone call using the retrieved  
22 fax telephone call forwarding telephone number to thereby  
23 deliver said fax to a subscriber device via a call in addition to  
24 delivery via E-mail.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the first telephone  
2 number is a telephone number corresponding to the party to whom the call is directed,  
3 wherein if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone call and voice  
4 call forwarding is enabled by the party to whom the call is directed, the method  
5 further comprises:

- 6 i. operating the telephone switch peripheral device to retrieve a voice  
7 telephone call forwarding telephone number from the set of stored subscriber  
8 information, said voice telephone call forwarding telephone number being different  
9 from said first telephone number; and  
10 ii. forwarding the first telephone call using the retrieved voice telephone  
11 call forwarding telephone number, forwarding the first telephone call using the  
12 retrieved voice telephone call forwarding telephone number includes operating the  
13 telephone switch peripheral device to:  
14 place a call to said call forwarding telephone number;  
15 and  
16 bridge the first telephone call and the ~~call~~ call to said  
17 call forwarding telephone number.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein forwarding the first telephone  
2 call using the retrieved fax telephone call forwarding telephone number includes  
3 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to:  
4 place a call to said fax telephone call forwarding telephone number;  
5 and

6 bridge the first telephone call and the call to said fax telephone call  
7 forwarding telephone number.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 8, further comprising, prior to operating  
2 the telephone switch peripheral device to determine if the first telephone call is a fax  
3 or voice telephone call:

4 storing said set of subscriber information including a voice telephone  
5 call forwarding telephone number and a fax telephone call forwarding telephone  
6 number in said telephone switch peripheral device.

1 Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further comprising,  
2 storing in said set of subscriber information an E-mail address to be used for  
3 forwarding a fax by E-mail.

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
2 monitoring the forwarded call, between the first telephone call and the  
3 call to said fax telephone call forwarding telephone number, for fax data  
4 corresponding to the fax message.

1 Claims 14-18 (canceled)

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): A communications method, the method comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 operating a telephone switch to detect a call to a telephone number  
4 corresponding to a call forwarding service subscriber;

5 connecting the telephone call to a peripheral device coupled to the  
6 telephone switch;

7 operating said peripheral device to:

8 i. answer said call;

- 9 ii. determine if the answered call is a fax telephone call or a  
10 non-fax call;  
11 iii. if it is determined that the answered telephone call is a fax  
12 telephone call, connect the call by a telephone line to a  
13 facsimile device corresponding to a the call forwarding service  
14 subscriber while monitoring the telephone call to receive a  
15 facsimile message delivered to the facsimile device; and  
16 iv. send an E-mail message including said received facsimile  
17 message to thereby deliver said facsimile by an E-mail device  
18 corresponding to said subscriber in addition to delivery to said  
19 facsimile device corresponding to said subscriber.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The communications method of claim 19, further  
2 comprising the step of:  
3 using the called telephone number to access a call forwarding service  
4 subscriber record; and  
5 retrieving from the call forwarding service subscriber record an E-mail  
6 address to be used for forwarding a fax message.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The communications method of claim 20, wherein  
2 the step of operating a telephone switch to detect a call to a telephone number  
3 includes:  
4 setting a terminating attempt trigger on a telephone line corresponding  
5 to said telephone number; and  
6 wherein the method further comprises:  
7 if it is determined that the answered call is a non-fax call, forwarding the  
8 call to another telephone number.

1 Claim 22 (original): The communications method of claim 21, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 contacting a service control point for call processing instructions in  
4 response to activation of said terminating attempt trigger; and

5 wherein connecting the telephone call to a peripheral device includes:

6 operating the telephone switch to couple the detected call to the  
7 peripheral device in response to an instruction received from the  
8 service control point.

1 Claim 23 (original): The communications method of claim 22,

2 wherein the instruction received from the service control point is a  
3 STOR message; and

4 wherein the peripheral device is coupled to said telephone switch by  
5 an additional telephone switch.

1 Claim 24 (previously presented): A fax forwarding method, the method comprising:  
2 for each of a plurality of fax forwarding service subscribers, creating a  
3 subscriber record including:

4 at least one telephone number corresponding to a telephone  
5 line on which the forwarding service subscriber may receive a fax call;  
6 fax forwarding by E-mail status information indicating whether  
7 faxes are to be forwarded by E-mail;

8 fax forwarding by telephone status information indicating if  
9 faxes are to be forwarded by telephone; and

10 an E-mail address to be used to forward a fax received by  
11 answering a call directed to said at least one telephone number;  
12 monitoring a plurality of said telephone lines on which fax forwarding  
13 service subscribers may receive fax calls; and

14 in response to receiving a call on one of said monitored lines:

15 determining if said received call is a fax call or a non-fax call;  
16 if the received call is determined to be a fax call and the fax  
17 forwarding by E-mail status information indicates faxes are to be  
18 forwarded by E-mail for the monitored line on which the call was  
19 received, determining from the subscriber record corresponding to the  
20 telephone line on which the fax call is received, an E-mail address to  
21 be used for forwarding a fax received on said telephone line; and  
22 forwarding by E-mail, using the determined E-mail address, a fax  
23 received on said telephone line; and  
24 if the call is determined to be a fax call and the fax forwarding  
25 by telephone status information indicates faxes are to be forwarded by  
26 telephone for the monitored line on which the call was received,  
27 forwarding said fax call to a telephone number indicated by the  
28 subscriber record corresponding to the telephone line on which the call  
29 was received.

1 Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein monitoring a plurality of said  
2 telephone lines on which fax forwarding service subscribers may receive fax calls  
3 includes:  
4 setting an AIN terminating attempt trigger on each of said plurality of  
5 telephone lines.

1 Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 24, further comprising, in response to  
2 receiving a fax call on one of said monitored lines, performing the additional steps of:  
3 determining, by accessing the subscriber record corresponding to the  
4 telephone line on which the fax call is received, a fax forwarding telephone number to  
5 be used for forwarding a fax received on said telephone line; and  
6 placing a call using the determined fax forwarding telephone number;  
7 and



8 bridging the placed call and the received fax call thereby forwarding  
9 the fax call by telephone.

1 Claim 27 (previously presented) The method claim 1, further comprising:  
2 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,  
3 prior to performing, in parallel, i) a fax delivery by E-mail operation and ii) a fax  
4 delivery by telephone operation:  
5 determining if forwarding information corresponding to said first  
6 telephone number includes a fax forwarding by telephone status indicator indicating  
7 that fax forwarding by telephone is to be performed and if said forwarding  
8 information also includes a fax forwarding by E-mail status indicator indicating that  
9 fax forwarding by E-mail is to be performed, said step of performing, in parallel, i) a  
10 fax delivery by E-mail operation and ii) a fax delivery by telephone operation being  
11 performed only when both said fax forwarding by telephone and fax forwarding by E-  
12 mail indicators indicate that fax forwarding is to be performed.

1 Claim 28 (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call, and  
3 voice call forwarding has been enabled by said subscriber but fax forwarding has not  
4 been enabled by said subscriber, performing the steps of:  
5 storing faxes received while said voice call forwarding is enabled and  
6 fax forwarding is not enabled.

1 Claim 29 (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising:  
2 automatically transmitting the stored faxes to the first telephone  
3 number when voice call forwarding is deactivated.

1 Claim 30 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a service subscriber  
2 an opportunity to separately enable and disable forwarding of fax and voice telephone

3 calls directed to a first telephone number corresponding to the service subscriber  
4 includes:  
5 providing a service coupled to the Internet by which a service  
6 subscriber can update call forwarding information included in said customer record.

1 Claim 31 (new) The method of claim 30, wherein providing a service subscriber an  
2 opportunity to separately enable and disable forwarding of fax and voice telephone  
3 calls directed to a first telephone number corresponding to the service subscriber  
4 further includes:  
5 providing a peripheral device coupled to a telephone network by  
6 which a service subscriber can update call forwarding information included in said  
7 customer record via telephone.  
8